MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 APRIL 1983

PLO Affairs

Jordanian Statement, Reaction -- Jordan "will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in any Middle East peace negotiations," the Jordanian Cabinet declared in a communique broadcast by Amman radio following its 10 April session presided over by King Husayn. Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League to support the PLO "within our capabilities and in compliance with the requirements of our national security." Although PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn drafted a final agreement during their recent talks, 'Arafat subsequently sent a delegate to Amman to propose a "new course of action" that differed from the agreement and that "did not give priority to saving the land," the statement noted. Jordan thus decided that it cannot proceed with joint political action which it had planned with the PLO. The statement affirmed that Jordan respects the PLO's decision and will let the PLO and Palestinians choose how to realize their declared aims.

Commenting on the statement, an 11 April JORDAN TIMES editorial declared that Jordan acted appropriately by "abandoning" talks with the PLO on joint political action for achieving a Middle East peace. The paper added that the Cabinet decision was needed "to face facts as they are now" and not as the Jordanian people and the Arab world would like them to be. An 11 April article in the Syrian paper TISHRIN reviewed by Damascus radio asserted that the "wager" on King Husayn's obtaining a Palestinian "mandate" to join the settlement negotiations on the basis of the Reagan initiative has "failed."

A senior official in Jerusalem said Israel is "not disappointed" with Jordan's announcement since Israel expected nothing from the 'Arafat-Husayn talks, Jerusalem radio reported on 10 April.

PLO Position, Diplomacy -- "We totally reject the Reagan plan, not for the sake of rejection, but because it does not fulfill our rights and ignores our people's right to self-determination," PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat told the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN during an exclusive interview published on 9 April. 'Arafat stressed the need for a Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and added that its primary objective is to serve the interests of both peoples. He "categorically rejected" the delegation of "any quarter" to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people other than their legitimate representative, the PLO. 'Arafat emphasized the PLO's adherence to the Fes summit resolutions and reiterated that "this is the minimal solution that is acceptable to us."

Earlier, the Fatah Central Committee called for the "continuation of dialogue with Jordan" and stressed the importance of holding an Arab summit conference, KUNA reported on 8 April citing a statement issued by the committee following meetings in Kuwait chaired by 'Arafat. The statement noted that the Central Committee discussed the Palestinian-Jordanian talks within the context of "adherence" to the decisions of the PNC's Algiers session. The Central Committee decided to remain in continuous session so that it can "follow up" any developments, the statement added.

During his current visit to Iraq PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi gave an interview to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio on 9 April in which he said that the United States insists on the exclusion of the PLO from any peace efforts. We "categorically reject" this and are trying to make the United States recognize our right to full representation, he declared. Noting that the Arab situation cannot deteriorate further, Qaddumi said there are some optimistic signs indicating that the Palestinian situation is improving on both the political and military levels.

In a flurry of diplomatic activity, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir left Amman for Damascus on 10 April after conveying new Palestinian proposals regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian talks to Jordanian officials, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a well-informed Palestinian source. Meanwhile, 'Arafat adviser Hani al-Hasan, who had accompanied Al-Wazir, left Amman for San'a' where he will meet with 'Arafat, the radio added. According to San'a' radio, 'Arafat met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 10 April and discussed developments in the Palestinian issue. Earlier, 'Arafat conferred with PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Aden. He described their talks as "intensive and important," Aden radio reported on 9 April.

As-Sartawi Assassination -- PLO representative at the Socialist International conference in Portugal 'Isam as-Sartawi was shot dead on 10 April at the conference hotel, AFP reported. The Fatah Central Committee later issued a statement declaring As-Sartawi's assassination a "link in the chain of Zionist crimes against our people which are being executed by its organs and agents," according to San'a' Voice of PLO radio. Earlier, Radio Monte Carlo said Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council movement claimed responsibility for the assassination after its Damascus office received a telephone call from the group that "carried out the operation."

The Israeli Knesset speaker expressed regret over As-Sartawi's death and noted that the PLO official had acted on behalf of peace, Jerusalem radio reported. He added that in his opinion As-Sartawi was assassinated by PLO "extremists" who oppose any formula of peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

POW Exchange -- PLO official Hani al-Hasan asserted that "no decisive development" has occurred in the negotiations on the exchange of Israeli and Palestinian POW's, QNA reported on 8 April. According to an earlier Radio Monte Carlo report, a leading PLO source said a final agreement had been reached according to which Israel will release all of the Ansar camp detainees and about 1,000 Palestinian detainees in the occupied territories in return for the release of the 8 POW's held by the PLO. Israeli military, defense, and Foreign Ministry officials said they have "no knowledge" of any such agreement, Jerusalem radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Moroccan official Ahmed Bensouda told an INA correspondent in Rabat that Morocco suggested convening an emergency Arab summit without a preparatory Arab foreign ministers meeting "to save time" because of the "seriousness" of the Middle East situation, INA reported on 9 April. He added that the summit, which is "likely" to be held on 16 April, will agree on a plan to guarantee the continuation of the "dynamism" of the recent Fes Arab summit resolutions. He noted that all the countries he visited as King Hassan II's envoy, as well as the PLO, have officially agreed to attend. A 9 April article in the Jordanian paper SAWT ASH-SHA'B reviewed by Amman radio declared that Jordan's "immediate positive response" to convening the summit confirms its commitment to Arab unanimity on crucial issues.

Lebanon

Syrian Position -- Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon is "conditional" because Syria is not committed to "cover" Lebanon's political options if the latter signs an agreement with Israel similar to the Camp David accords, Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas announced in an interview with a Lebanese paper reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrians have deployed additional T-72 tanks in the Al-Biqa' area and that the Syrian Army has been placed on alert. Meanwhile, the Syrian chief of staff and Soviet experts inspected the upper Al-Matn area in order to find sites for missiles, the radio asserted.

Security Situation -- A car bomb exploded near the Iranian revolution guards center in Ba'labakk, killing 2 people and wounding 16 others including 3 Iranians, the Voice of Lebanon reported on 8 April. One IDF soldier was killed and several others were injured as a result of attacks on Israeli vehicles in several locations south of Beirut, according to reports by IDF and Jerusalem radio on 10 April.

Tripartite Negotiations -- The Lebanese delegation at the 11 April tripartite talks will be flexible on issues that do not affect Lebanese sovereignty and dignity, but Lebanon "categorically rejects any kind of Israeli presence" on its territory, which must be the responsibility of the Lebanese Army alone, Beirut radio reported.

Israel

Cabinet Ministers expressed anger over the U.S. Administration's arms embargo and its attempt to persuade King Husayn to join the peace negotiations by promising to do its best to make Israel stop the settlement program, Jerusalem radio disclosed in a report on the 10 April Cabinet meeting. Claiming that the United States is supplying "massive" quantities of arms to Arab countries, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said the U.S. suspension of arms supplies to Israel for political reasons is "unprecedented." Cabinet ministers said the embargo on F-16 aircraft is damaging Israel's security, the radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces "annihilated" a 10-11 April Iranian offensive along a 30-km front east of Maysan, according to Iraqi Armed Forces communiques carried by INA and Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. After "grinding battles" the Iraqis captured over 300 POW's and fighting continued only in a limited sector of the front, the communiques reported.

Tehran radio's Arabic service did not mention an Iranian offensive but said that after a renewed outbreak of fighting on the southern front Iraqi forces failed to achieve their objectives and were forced to retreat in several areas, sustaining heavy losses. Describing the fighting as a "clash" north of Faqih, IRNA said exchanges of fire continued on 11 April.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn sent a congratulatory telegram to Soviet leaders commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, INA reported on 8 April. The telegram affirms Iraq's "sincere desire" to strengthen bilateral friendship and cooperation. INA subsequently reported that Saddam Husayn received a congratulatory cable from the Soviet Government expressing confidence in the development of bilateral relations.

Oil Slick

The head of Iran's environmental protection organization told a 10 April press conference reported by Tehran radio that Iraq's attempt to turn the oil slick problem into a political issue was the cause of the failure of the ministerial meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment which took place in Kuwait last week. Iran will adhere to its previous firm stand at the forthcoming meeting of the organization on 14 April, the Iranian official added. Meanwhile, experts from the regional organization held further talks on the oil slick, which has now reached Bahrain's shores, according to Dubayy's KHALEEJ TIMES.

Egypt

Mubarak Tour -- After a 3-day visit to Indonesia during which he held talks with President Suharto, President Husni Mubarak left for Pakistan on 11 April, according to Cairo radio.

Jordanian Delegation -- A Jordanian industry and trade delegation arrived in Cairo on an official 7-day visit, MENA reported on 9 April.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 070 *11 April 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi Reports on Geneva Talks on Afghanistan C 1
Preliminary Session C 1
Second Session C 1

INDIA

Prime Minister Gandhi Rules Out Midterm Poll E 1
Gandhi: No Question of Yielding to Pressures E 1
Punjab Government To Probe Recent Incidents E 2
Akali Dal Announces 'Sikh Sacrifice Squad' E 2
Party Chief Dissolves Akali Dal Delhi Wing E 3
CPI Council Urges All-Party Meeting on Punjab E 3
Arson, Bombings Reported in Assam 8 April E 3
7 Areas Declared Disturbed E 3
Curfew Set in Tripura Following Violence E 4
Official on Pakistani Discussion of Kashmir E 4
PRC Delegation Visits Madras 10-11 April E 4
SLV-3 Satellite To Be Launched 17 April E 4

PAKISTAN

Paper Says Martial Law Should Be Ended 'Now' F 1
[NAWA-E WAQT 8 Apr]

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Air Force Personnel, Shanty Dwellers Clash G 1
AFP Report G 1

IRAN

Deputy Minister Meets With Soviet Official I 1
Khomeyni Addresses Committee Officials 10 April I 1
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques I 4
Communique No 1,273 I 4
Communique No 1,274 I 4
Communique No 1,275 I 5
Battles Break Out on Southern Fronts 10 April I 6
IRNA Account I 6
Military Leaders Visit, Inspect Khark Island I 6
Defense Minister I 6
Gendarmerie Commander I 7

Taheri Returns From Gulf Meeting on Oil Slick I 7
Holds Press Conference I 8
Cabinet Discusses Oil Slick, Afghan Refugees I 8
Clandestine Radio Says Khomeyni 'on Deathbed' I 9
[Free Voice of Iran]

KARACHI REPORTS ON GENEVA TALKS ON AFGHANISTAN

Preliminary Session

BK091012 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Preliminary talks on Afghanistan began in Geneva today on an optimistic note in a new UN-sponsored round of negotiations designed to provide a groundwork for an Afghanistan settlement. The UN secretary general's personal representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, said that the negotiations on Afghanistan through the United Nations were making steady progress and the situation is very encouraging. The second round of indirect talks begins in Geneva on Monday. Mr Cordovez said the forthcoming negotiations could be extended beyond the scheduled closing date of the 22d of this month.

Earlier, Mr Cordovez told a news conference that the questions of procedure were shaped, but the problem which remained unresolved so far concerned the representation of Afghan refugees on Pakistani soil. He said they have to work out some way of consulting the Afghan refugees to know their views.

Second Session

BK110327 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] The second round of indirect negotiations to find a political solution to the Afghan issue begins in Geneva today through Diego Cordovez, the personal representative of the UN secretary general. Diego Cordovez is expected to formally unveil the text of a draft which will form the basis of the indirect negotiations. UN authorities have described it as a negotiating draft.

Cordovez first will present the draft to Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan this morning. It also will be given to the foreign minister of the Karmal administration, Shah Mohammad Dost, this afternoon. Iran will be briefed on the main points of the draft, although it is not participating in the negotiations.

Cordovez held two separate meetings with senior officials of Pakistan and later also held talks with officials of the Karmal administration. After the meetings, the personal representative of the UN secretary general said they exchanged views on concrete means for finding a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan issue.

Asked to comment on the second round of the Geneva talks, a spokesman for the Pakistan delegation said this time the negotiations were going to be very hard indeed. The spokesman said all important aspects of a political solution to the Afghan crisis would be considered. These include arrangements for ascertaining the view of the Afghan refugees on how and when and under what conditions they would participate in the talks, withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, and guarantees of non-interference.

The spokesman said they are being objective. He said the entire negotiations would be carried out within the parameters of Pakistan's well-known stand on a political solution to the Afghan crisis. These include withdrawal of foreign troops, restoration of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan, return of Afghan refugees to their homes, and the right of the Afghan people to elect a government of their choice.

PRIME MINISTER GANDHI RULES OUT MIDTERM POLL

BK081249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out a midterm poll. Mrs Gandhi was asked by the newsmen in Varanasi today about reports that she might order early elections to the Lok Sabha. She countered with the question: Where is the need for a midterm poll?

About coming together of non-Congress-I chief ministers of some southern states, Mrs Gandhi said there is no harm in it if the motive is better coordination. Otherwise, it would be a disservice to the people. There should be no confrontation between the center and the states.

GANDHI: NO QUESTION OF YIELDING TO PRESSURES

BK081637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Addressing a public meeting during the day [in Varanasi], the prime minister declared that there is no question of the government yielding to pressures from any movement against national unity and the country's integrity.

Mrs Gandhi said the divisive forces and communal elements cause serious threat to the nation. They will have to be checked. Artificial barriers created by vested interest in the name of language, religion, and regionalism have to be demolished.

Referring to the Assam agitation, Mrs Gandhi said some political parties are helping the agitation without understanding its implications. She said the government has proposed to the agitationists that to begin with the detection work can start from 1971 and the dialogue continue. But the agitationists did not agree. Regretting violence in Assam, she said such incidents will only weaken the country and will not help anyone.

About the Punjab situation, the prime minister said most of their demands have already been accepted. But there are some which concern the other states also. She regretted that the agitation still continues. She appealed to the people to cooperate with the government in strengthening the country.

Referring to center-state relations, Mrs Gandhi said that the strength of the center lies in the strength of the states. We have to make the country strong and self-sufficient. The prime minister pointed out that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in food-grain industry and other fields, but a lot more has to be done.

Mrs Gandhi said that the nonaligned conference was not organized to enhance our prestige but to enable the developing countries to voice their concern about the threat of a world war. She said India was reluctant to organize the conference. But the member nations maintained that if India does not take it up, the conference cannot be held.

About ASIAD, the prime minister said it was organized not for entertainment but for providing the right encouragement to the youth.

Earlier, addressing a meeting of Congress-I workers and freedom fighters, Mrs Gandhi condemned the tendency of making an issue of everything and called upon the people to maintain unity and peace. She described as baseless the allegation that Hindi is being imposed on the southern states. The issue is being raised, she said, by vested interests for their political gain.

The prime minister also addressed a special convocation of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University at Varanasi on its silver jubilee celebrations today. The university conferred on her the honorary degree of Vachaspati [title given to scholars], which is its highest award.

The prime minister has since returned to New Delhi.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TO PROBE RECENT INCIDENTS

BK101708 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Text] The Punjab Government has decided to order judicial inquiry by a serving or retired high court judge into the firing incident in the state on the 4th of this month in connection with the rasta roko [road blockade] agitation. The incident resulted in the deaths and injuries to some persons. Some police personnel were also injured.

The chief minister appealed to the media to avoid giving sensational and distorted versions of the unfortunate incidents that had taken place in the state. The need of the hour is the restoration of peace and normalcy. He appealed to the leaders of all political parties to refrain from provocative actions and statements and said that this will only aggravate the situation.

AKALI DAL ANNOUNCES 'SIKH SACRIFICE SQUAD'

BK081521 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 8 (AFP) -- The Sikh pro-autonomy Akali Dal Party today said that a 100,000-strong "Sikh sacrifice squad" would be formed in the northwestern Indian state of Punjab next week, "ready to do supreme sacrifice" for the Sikh cause, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Party Chairman Sant Harchand Longowal said in Punjab's holy city of Amritsar that a first batch from the squad would be sworn in by the head priest on April 14, the Sikh new year day.

The agency said that it had "reliably learnt" that the Akali Dal had reached some secret decisions at its meeting last night, including a call for a 1-day general strike throughout Punjab.

Mr Longowal also called on all Punjabis and Sikhs from around the world to observe a day of mourning on April 17 for those killed recently by the "indiscriminate excesses of the Punjab Government."

PARTY CHIEF DISSOLVES AKALI DAL DELHI WING

BK110906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA report from Amritsar says that the Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has dissolved the Delhi Akali Dal. He is reported to have appointed a 21-member ad hoc committee to reorganize that party in Delhi.

CPI COUNCIL URGES ALL-PARTY MEETING ON PUNJAB

BK080312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] The National Council of the Communist Party of India has urged the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, to call an all-party meeting, including Akali Dal, to defuse the situation in Punjab. It has also appealed to the Akali leaders to respond to such a meeting. This was stated by the general secretary of the party, Mr Rajeshwar, while briefing newsmen on the deliberations of the National Council meeting which concluded in New Delhi on Tuesday. He said the council has welcomed the appointment of the Sarkaria commission to look into the problems of the center-state relations.

ARSON, BOMBINGS REPORTED IN ASSAM 8 APRIL

BK090652 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] In Assam, police resorted to firing to disperse violent groups of people indulging in arson at (Tukrabandha) in Kakrajhar subdivision to Goalpora District yesterday. One person was killed. According to official reports in Gauhati, two persons died in group violence in (Polashkandi) and (Kashbari) villages on Thursday night. About 100 houses were set on fire in two villages. Security personnel have been rushed to the area.

A bomb exploded in the Northeast Frontier Railway office in (Maligaon) in Gauhati, slightly damaging the building. Another bomb explosion at the residence of a political party worker has also been reported from Sibsagar District on Thursday night. A 7-hour strike was observed in Gauhati yesterday in protest against the bomb explosion in (south Saronia) area in the city on Thursday.

7 Areas Declared Disturbed

BK091606 Delhi Domestic in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] In Assam, seven more police station areas in Goalpara District have been declared disturbed. The Armed Forces will now be employed in these areas to assist the civil authorities in the maintenance of law and order. Meanwhile, one person is reported to have been killed in group clashes in (Taikandi) villages in Kakrajhar subdivision. Official reports say that 12 houses were also set on fire by miscreants. A couple of bomb explosions have been reported at (Rajaduar) Ferry Chat in north Gauhati and Kampur in Nowgong District. Reports reaching Gauhati say the situation in (Sapour) and (Bilasipara) police station areas is quiet.

CURFEW SET IN TRIPURA FOLLOWING VIOLENCE

BK090704 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] Dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in certain areas of (Bisalgarh), a block in southern subdivision of west Tripura yesterday. This follows violent incidents in the wake of the murder of a Congress-I member of legislative assembly Parimal Saha and other party worker on Thursday. According to agency reports normal life was affected in the state because of the 24-hour statewide strike called by the Congress-I Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty told newsmen in Agartala that the curfew would be extended for a few more days if there is no more improvement in the situation. He admitted that Saha's murder was political.

In condolence message, Gandhi described the murder of Saha as a shocking and reprehensible act of violence.

OFFICIAL ON PAKISTANI DISCUSSION OF KASHMIR

BK071744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] India considers raising of the Kashmir issue by Pakistan in international forums as contrary to the Simla agreement. In a written reply, the minister of state for external affairs, Rahim, told the Lok Sabha today that it is also viewed as not helpful in improving the relations between the two countries.

PRC DELEGATION VISITS MADRAS 10-11 APRIL

BK110419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] The leader of the Chinese good will delegation, Chu Tunan, now on a visit to India, expressed satisfaction over the growing friendship between India and China. Speaking in Madras, Chu Tunan congratulated Prime Minister Gandhi for her steps to bringing about abiding world peace. The 11-member delegation, which has come to India at the invitation of the India-China Society, arrived in the city yesterday on a 2-day visit.

SLV-3 SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED 17 APRIL

BK101550 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Text] India's satellite launch vehicle SLV-3 will be launched on next Sunday. It will be moved to the launch pad in the Sriharikota range in Andhra Pradesh tomorrow. The final countdown will start on Saturday. The launch was originally fixed for today but was postponed as the test of the fourth stage motor was not satisfactory. The motor will put Rohini satellite RSD-2 into a near-earth orbit.

PAPER SAYS MARTIAL LAW SHOULD BE ENDED 'NOW'

GF101955 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 8 Apr 83 p 3

[International edition]

[Editorial: "Right Decisions Should Be Made at Correct Time"]

[Excerpts] The leader of the defunct Jama'at-i-Islami, Mian Tufail Ahmad, has said that the stay of martial law has been prolonged more than it should have been and it should be terminated now. According to him, in the case of a national crisis, martial law is merely an inchoate, first-aid measure and not the solution to a national problem. He said this in an interview with a U.S. newspaper.

This feeling about the prolongation of martial law is not confined to the Jama'at-i-Islami alone. The Pakistan Muslim League, which brought Pakistan into existence, holds the same opinion and the only difference in the stance of the other parties is that in view of the present situation, the Jama'at-i-Islami and the Muslim League are against open confrontation with the ruling party, while the other parties have set up a united front under the name of the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] and refer to the Jama'at-i-Islami and the Muslim League as the B team.

The feelings aroused by the prolongation of martial law are not hidden from the leaders, who profess to uphold the restoration of democracy and the transfer of power to the chosen representatives of the people. They try to drown the daily increasing and loud clamor with three conditions:

First, they want to consolidate the system of Islamization initiated in the country so that the next government does not adopt a retrogressive policy. Second, the conditions are not conducive to the holding of the elections and the elections will be held as soon as the conditions change for the better. Third, they wish to set up a political infrastructure wherein honest and dedicated people become the people's representatives and there is no need for reimposition of martial law.

These three conditions are not too farfetched and their pros and cons can be discussed at length. However, the problem is not one of discussion, but of the prevailing need to include the people in the affairs of the country and the nation. Any procrastination in creating this sense of participation, however plausible, will receive a negative reaction and this will be the advantage of people with a negative mentality.

A knowledge of the nuances of politics should be accompanied by concerted action and lofty theories and sublime notions can only be substantiated by people's participation. In such a state of affairs, a chasm is created which is widened by the helplessness and an indifferent "who cares?" attitude. The fact is that the wheels of government and the country seem to be turning, but the shades of people's participation are becoming subliminal and they do not hear the echo of their feelings and aspirations in the chamber of government.

There are many examples in Pakistan's 35-year-old history when decisions were made eventually, but due to the delay in making them, they did not prove beneficial.

SRI LANKA

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, SHANTY DWELLERS CLASH

BK081335 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] The death toll in last night's clash between some Air Force personnel and the public at (Varasolia) in the (?Borella) police area has risen to three. According to the deputy inspector general, metropolitan, (Edward Gunewardene), two of the victims had died of gunshot injuries while an old woman was burnt to death when 40 shanties in the area were set on fire. Ten others, who received serious gunshot injuries, are now [words indistinct] at the general hospital.

A police (?task force) moved into the area last night and restored law and order. The police have also set up roadblocks to prevent further clashes.

Meanwhile, the municipal authorities in Colombo have provided temporary shelter in government schools to those who were rendered homeless when their shanties were gutted. Mayor Sirisena Cooray told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that they have provided them with meals and other facilities. He added that action will be taken to help the victims to rebuild their shanties.

AFP Report

BK091532 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] Colombo, April 9 (AFP) -- About 200 armed Army and police personnel are guarding Colombo's tough Wanathamulla area where Air Force men and shanty dwellers clashed on Thursday night killing three and injuring over 40.

Homemade bombs, guns and molotov cocktails were used in the midnight battle which lasted over three hours, police said.

"Everything is quiet at the moment," Colombo's Police Commissioner Mahesan Selvaratnam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

"Our men are on guard around the Air Force apartment," Army sources said.

At today's inquest into the deaths of two shanty dwellers by gunshot wounds the coroner returned a verdict of homicide.

A woman aged 55 was burnt to death when over 30 shanties in the area were razed to the ground, possibly by Air Force men who live nearby.

The immediate cause for the pitched battle is not known. Apparently trouble had been brewing between the Air Force and the shanty dwellers for a while.

Police had to rush forces from several Colombo stations to quell the clash in which some policemen were also injured.

DEPUTY MINISTER MEETS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

GF081612 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 8 IRNA -- Vasiliy Safranchuk, director of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Union Foreign Ministry, met and conferred with Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, here Thursday.

In the meeting talks on mutual ties, the expansion of economic relations and the grounds for cooperation on joint schemes were held. Also regional and international problems were discussed.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES COMMITTEE OFFICIALS 10 APRIL

LD101450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni to officials of Islamic revolution committees at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 10 April; duration 24 minutes -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank the brothers who have kindly come here, giving me the privilege of meeting you directly. The brothers' efforts and those of the committees are commendable because you were capable in the initial stages of the revolution's victory and because -- as is the nature of revolution, there was some insecurity and disorder in the towns -- you were able, praise be to God, to gain control over the towns for security matters. Since then, you have all been, along with your brothers in the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces, serving Islam and your dear country. This is recorded by the most exalted, Almighty God.

It is clear, and you all know this, that today we are on the defensive. Whatever the foreign propaganda against us, you know that right now some of our towns and lands are in the hands of the enemy and that our border towns are daily under enemy artillery and missile attack. It is incumbent upon all of us to defend our country. This means we should drive the enemy back to the point where he is unable to pound our towns with his missiles. Entering Iraqi territory is an aspect of defense -- defense of Islam and of the Islamic country. If someone were attacking your home from his and you entered his house, you would not be attacking him because you wanted to defend yourself. We have never intended to attack any country; all we intend to do is defend ourselves.

Foreign propaganda is now saying that we have entered another country. There was nothing being said about the enemy being in our country from the beginning of the war -- neither in international organizations nor in the media. Now that we want, in our own defense, to drive the enemy to the point that he cannot harm us any longer, it is being said that we have committed an aggression against Iraq. That is the characteristic of those who engage in anti-Islamic propaganda. It is an obligation for us to defend ourselves.

There are various ways in which one defends oneself. The Islamic revolution committees are, praise be to God, engaged in defensive operations inside the country; they are at the border and at the fronts. The same applies to the Guards Corps and the military because there is no difference between the committees and the Guards Corps, between the army and the mobilization units, or between them and the tribes.

We are all brothers who may be using different kinds of arms but who are one in spirit. They may have different jobs to do but they are brothers just the same. They are united in their faith and conviction. That is why you have been able to crush all those great powers and rise against all the powers on earth. As long as this fraternity is preserved and the committees do not make a distinction between itself and the Guards Corps and Guards Corps members do not make a distinction between themselves and others -- as long as this spirit prevails -- you will also be preserved. I hope that this spirit of unity will be preserved so the country will be spared from the plots being hatched against its future. We are determined to defend our country and our dear Islam against any aggressor, be it a superpower or a small power. It makes no difference to us. It is incumbent upon us to defend our honor, Islam's honor, and our Islamic country. As we are maintaining this posture. We will confront any power that wants to attack us. We will have no fear.

In connection with the oil which now has leaked into the Gulf and has troubled our brothers of the Gulf and is troubling the Arab nation, you are witnessing that all foreign propaganda is now again against us. It is like saying: Why do you have any oil; it is your fault that your people are in Khuzestan; it is not Saddam's fault that he kills them; it is the people's fault for being there and getting killed. That is their position. They have not said a word to Saddam about why he has committed such an action.

We are not thinking about ourselves. Thank God, we don't need such a small amount of oil. We are talking about these Arab brothers who are now around the Gulf -- in Kuwait, Qatar, Dubayy, Bahrain and so on. They are now facing a shortage of water. They don't ask Husayn why he has done that. Governments don't ask why Saddam has done such a thing. They say Iran's oil has gone there. Has the oil walked there by itself?

The world is in such a state that one cannot imagine the character of the people of the world such as those who are in control of the mass media, those who are in power. They get together to decide what to do, what is to be done. They decide that they should act in accordance with Saddam's permission. You have not said a word to the person who has committed so many crimes. These crimes have been committed against us. Our fault is that we say Islam must rule. But this latest crime has been committed against the Arabs, not against us. The crime against us is that oil has spilled. What have the wife and children of this poor Arab done? What have the women and children of the Gulf done? This crime has been committed against them. They get together, but they cannot stop it. They cannot make him promise not to attack so that they can repair it. It is a bizarre case.

May God guide humanity -- the nature and character which the human race has now adopted. [cheers]

This is self-surrender that the states around the Gulf and those outside the gulf are showing in response to the big powers. These states do not understand that if Saddam were able to, he would not leave one of them alone. Saddam is the one that these states cannot defend themselves against. If they were capable of defending themselves against him, they would not have adopted the attitudes they now have. (?Even knowing this, they fail to help themselves.)

These states believe that if they are cornered, the United States will come and save them. The United States wants you for your oil. The United States wants a market where it can get oil and sell its (?wares) at high prices. What does the United States care about your situation? Your people may be hungry; your people may be very thirsty. But it has no such worries. The United States wants to exploit you. [passage omitted]

We are not sitting back waiting for America to do something for us. We are waiting to stop America if it wants to do any mischief. We are waiting to stop the Soviet Union if it wants to do something, to defend ourselves. We are not waiting for America to do something for us. We put America under our feet in these matters. We don't allow it to interfere in our affairs. We don't allow anybody else to interfere. Even if they decide to attack, we will not allow their aircraft to land. We will kill and destroy their parachutists in the air. Can they [words indistinct as audience chants slogans against America, Soviet Union, Israel, Saddam Husayn, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq] but they never have the intention of attacking. They are seeking to set us against each other. We have said this many times before and I will tell you many more times, if I am alive [audience chants "God willing"] -- as long as you are united.

The revolution committees personnel do not talk about themselves; they talk about the Muslims and how they should be. Army personnel do not talk about themselves; they talk about the well-being of the Armed Forces and the nation. Guards corpsmen, tribesmen, bazaar merchants, and people in the streets say the same thing -- it is impossible for a power to dominate you, it is impossible because these big powers are looking for new interests not losses, even at the expense of the whole world, just so that they can maintain their interests. But our country is one which they cannot exploit.

Despite the power they have, they have realized that they are losing in Afghanistan. On the first day, when their ambassador came to me and told me that the Afghan Government had asked them to intervene, I told them: Don't do it; you will lose. They have now realized that they are losing. They have realized that it is impossible, that it is impossible to attack a country in such a state, that there will be no winning and that it is all loss.

They are seeking to spread discord among you. They are seeking to create a loud discord; to make a group say there is shortage and cry: We are short of this, short of that. They think in other places people have too much. In other places, lines are longer than here. There is no famine here; there is plenty here. But it is expensive. High prices will also be cured. We must not endanger our honor, our Islam, our lives, and the lives of our youths because meat or fruit is expensive. Should there be a split -- that a group start complaining and a group make poisonous propaganda -- Heaven forbid, should the unity of the nation, and particularly, the unity of the Guards Corps, the army, the committees and so on, disappear, then that would be the day of the death of us all and the disappearance of all honors and the wasting of all the efforts of the prophets -- peace be upon them -- for our country and the other countries. [as heard]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

No 1,273

LD081754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,273 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fighting continued on the western fronts of the country yesterday with sporadic exchanges of fire. The combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions, stopped their engineering activities, pounded the entrenchments belonging to the Iraqi forces, and destroyed an engineering vehicle, a military truck, and several weapons emplacements. A number of enemy forces were either killed or wounded. As a result of the heavy fire of the combatants of Islam on enemy positions and units in (Valyaveh) and Hargineh on the Marivan front, considerable damage and casualties were inflicted on the Iraqi forces. However, no exact information is available on the extent of the damages and casualties sustained by the enemy.

On the southern fronts, exchanges of fire also continued. The powerful combatants of Islam defended the positions and regions under their protection while executing defensive fire. By sending out surveillance and combat groups, our forces checked enemy movements and activities and inflicted damages.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the warriors of the Navy and the courageous personnel of the Gendarmerie fired on the positions and communication routes of the Iraqi forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud, thus silencing their fire and destroying four collective entrenchments and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries. The traffic of Iraqi military vehicles on the Al-Faw-Basra route was stopped.

Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday came under artillery and long-range weapons fire by the Saddamist criminal mercenaries, which resulted in the destruction of several houses and shops and the wounding of one of our dear compatriots.

All violations of Iranian airspace along the southern and western border zones by Saddamist mercenaries were repelled by the defenders of the skies of our dear Islamic homeland.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,274

LD091713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,274 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combatants of Islam, in their operations during the past 24 hours, continued to fire on enemy personnel, positions, and armor. Effective blows on all fronts were inflicted on the Saddamist forces.

In the Abadan and Khorramshar operational zones, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued. Our combatant units opened artillery and mortar fire on the Saddamist concentrations to the west of the Arvand Rud, destroying an enemy observation post and three bunkers and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers.

The criminal Saddamists yesterday once again shelled Abadan's residential sectors with their long-range weapons; three houses were destroyed.

On the western fronts, our combatants' continued to level enemy positions and bunkers; two of the aggressors' vehicles were set on fire and destroyed.

In the course of an ambush and patrol operations on the western operational fronts, our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy and opened fire on a number of enemy concentrations and vehicle columns.

In the past 24 hours, the enemy's air intrusions into the airspace over some operational zones and a few western and southern cities were quickly foiled by the air defense units and by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,275

LD101747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,275 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday all along the country's western fronts, exchanges of sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued. The powerful Islamic combatants defended their positions, opening fire on enemy positions and units and controlling their movements and activities. Our forces also inflicted damage and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

In the Meymak area, a patrol group from the combatants of the Ground Forces set fire to several of their entrenchments and killed several soldiers.

On the Marivan front, the Islamic combatants' intensive fire on the positions and equipment of the Saddamist mercenaries in (Ghogholeh) region caused some damage and casualties among the Saddamist forces. Some of the enemy forces were either killed or wounded. The Islamic combatants halted the movement and activities of Iraqi vehicles and silenced their fire.

In exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, the warriors of the Gendarmerie silenced the Iraqi forces' fire, killed or wounded several Saddamist mercenaries, and set fire to and destroyed more than nine trenches and foxholes and one ammunition depot. Aslo our forces opened fire on the Al-Faw-Basra road and halted the movement of Saddamist vehicles on this route.

On other southern fronts, the Islamic combatants continued the defense of their positions and checked the Iraqi forces' movements and activities. Our forces dealt effective blows to Iraqi forces by opening fire and sending patrol groups at appropriate times.

Saddam's criminal mercenaries yesterday fired with their heavy weapons on areas of the city of Abadan, wounding eight of our beloved compatriots and destroying three houses and stores.

In the last 24 hours, the tactical moves of the selfless personnel of the Air Force and the timely fire of our air defense units thwarted all attempts by the aggressive aircraft of the Iraqi Armed Forces to violate the airspace of Iran's southern and western border towns. The enemy aircraft were forced to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

BATTLES BREAK OUT ON SOUTHERN FRONTS 10 APRIL

GF110730 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0710 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Our correspondents on the southern battlefronts reported that battles broke out at 2300 last night between our Islamic forces and the forces of the Zionist enemy in Iraq. The reports affirmed that the enemy forces failed to achieve their goals and were forced to retreat on several axes.

Available information says that the aggressor Iraqi forces have sustained great losses in addition to the deaths of a great number of commanders in the Iraqi Zionist army. However, no further details of these battles are available yet.

IRNA Account

GF110940 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 11 (IRNA) -- In a clash Sunday night between the Iranian Islamic forces and those of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the Iranian forces killed a number of the Iraqi military commanders and inflicted heavy blows on the aggressor forces of the Iraqi regime.

The clash, which started last night at 23:00 local time, was in the vicinities of the Moharram operation theater, north for Faqih, located northwest of Ahvaz.

In the clash, the Iraqi aggressor forces were paralysed by the Iranian combatants and were forced to retreat in some areas, since they lost their military configuration.

The fire exchange is still continuing in the region.

MILITARY LEADERS VISIT, INSPECT KHARK ISLAND

Defense Minister

GF092000 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Defense Minister Colonel Salimi statement in Khark on 8 April -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The (?aim) of this trip, this assignment, was to view the defense system of Khark Island from close quarters as requested by the Supreme Defense Council and to take necessary steps.

I inspected different parts of the sites [word indistinct] and I was very busy. I have issued instructions for whatever is required to be done. On the whole, military preparations are stasifactory and all are vigilant and performing their duties.

Gendarmerie Commander

GF101445 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Text] Colonel Kuchek-Zadeh, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of his visit to Bushehr Province, went to Khark Island yesterday afternoon and visited the Coast Guard and other military and law enforcement agency facilities.

According to a Central News Unit report, in a meeting last night with the governor general, the commander of the Bushehr Gendarmerie, military and law enforcement commanders, and the district governor of Khark, he discussed the defense problems of Khark, he discussed the defense problems of Khark Island and the necessary coordination related to this.

Col Khuchek-Zadeh left Khark this morning for Deylam. According to this report, after arriving at Bandar-e Daylam, he visited the Gendarmerie of this port and held talks with the commanders and law enforcement personnel and other officials of Deylam and discussed the law enforcement problems in Deylam. Col Kuchek-Zadeh and other officials also met Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza'ian, the Friday imam of Deylam. Col Kuchek-Zadeh, in continuation of his trip, also visited Bandar-e Rig this afternoon.

TAHERI RETURNS FROM GULF MEETING ON OIL SLICK

LD091155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] The deputy prime minister and head of the environmental protection organization, Mirza Taheri, returned to Iran yesterday evening from Kuwait, where he led a delegation to a miniterial meeting held to discuss environmental protection of the eight Persian Gulf states. The aim of the session was to study ways of containing the oil spill from the Nowruz oil wells which were subjected to a missile attack by the Zionist Saddamist regime.

Although our delegation declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared all the necessary means necessary to control the pollution, the eight countries of the Persian Gulf failed to agree to a common approach to fight the oil slick. They only agreed to set up a technical committee to discuss a project aimed at capping the Nowruz wells.

The Iraqi representative tried to make political mileage out of this session, the sole nature of which was technical. Under the pretext of not having the authority, he prevented the operational area of the damaged oil wells from being declared a secure zone. On the other hand, all attempts by the Iraqi regime to take the issue to the United Nations were defeated.

It ought to be pointed out that the Islamic Republic's ambassador in Kuwait, who chaired the session, rejected a limited cease-fire proposal by Iraq and demanded an apology from the regime ruling Iraq for bombing the Nowruz oil fields.

Holds Press Conference

LD101210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports that Deputy Prime Minister Mirza Taheri, head of the environmental protection organization, held a press conference this morning.

Referring to the results of the Kuwait meeting, Taheri said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation attended the meeting in Kuwait in pursuance of negotiations held previously on examining issues relating to the Nowruz oil field. During the meeting in Kuwait, most of the participating states approved the Iranian Government's constructive points and hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran's activities toward controlling pollution in the Persian Gulf waters.

Commenting on the failure of the meeting, Mirza Taheri said: The Iraqi delegation to the meeting had not been empowered to accept any decisions made at the meeting in Kuwait and had to consult the Iraqi military junta. The Iraqi regime was determined to change the whole issue into a political one.

He further said: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing, after the conclusion of the current discussions in Kuwait, to begin to implement and resume activities toward removing pollution from the Persian Gulf waters. The existing pollution is endangering the states of the southern Persian Gulf but presently holds no particular danger for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commenting on the current state of affairs, he said: Pollution resulting form oil leakage at the moment has covered a 120-square-mile area of the Persian Gulf. The oil, in the form of divided and broken oil slicks, is moving toward Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mirza Taheri said: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will participate in the forthcoming meeting in Kuwait to be held on 14 April and will pursue the same previous firm stands and points of view.

CABINET DISCUSSES OIL SLICK, AFGHAN REFUGEES

LD101209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a session this morning chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Reporting to the Cabinet was Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his meeting with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and the latter's guidance, including provision of drinking water for the Persian Gulf states.

The prime minister later ordered the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Roads and Transport as well as the Oppressed Foundation to use all their resources to implement Ayatollah Montazeri's directive.

Mirza Taheri, deputy prime minister and the head of environmental protection organization, briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his recent trip to the Arabian states of the Persian Gulf and his talks with officials of those countries.

During today's Cabinet session, the situation of our Afghan brothers residing in Iran was discussed. The prime minister said: Some of the Afghans, in an attempt to damage the dignity and the just struggles of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, were involved in some offenses and criminal acts; and the committed Afghan brothers themselves must remain vigilant against such conspiracy. In his remarks, the prime minister ordered government officials to deal with such offenses firmly and vigilantly. Musavi added that all those who live in our country must respect the laws.

CLANDESTINE RADIO SAYS KHOMEYNI 'ON DEATHBED'

GF091906 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] The sick Khomeyni is on his deathbed. This news was disseminated by Arabic publications citing the opponents of the Islamic Republic and international news agencies.

All these reports were unanimous in stating that Khomeyni is critically ill and under intensive medical care and is being given emergency treatment. His illness seems to be related to his heart and obstruction in the circulation of blood. The mullahs' regime has asked the physicians who treated him earlier to fly to Tehran.

Two well-equipped medical teams from the United States, consisting of cardiovascular physicians, hastily left for Tehran and are now keeping Khomeyni under intensive care in Jamaran. Reports from news agencies and the publications of Arab capitals, citing informed Iranian sources who are opponents of the Khomeyni regime, said that the number of guards surrounding the sick Khomeyni's residence have been increased and security has been tightened in Jamaran and throughout northern Tehran.

Despite the fact that some of the people in Tehran have heard about Khomeyni's illness and the request to foreign physicians for immediate medical aid by the Khomeyni regime's authorities, a formal announcement has not been made and the regime continues to maintain its silence.

According to these reports, in case this intensive care does not succeed in reviving Khomeyni's life [as heard], his family will transfer him to a Swiss hospital. The publications in Arab capitals consider the absence of Khomeyni from television as substantiating these reports and added that other groups of specialists from Spain and France are ready to fly to Tehran in case his condition deteriorates.

We await latest reports in this regard so that we can inform our listeners.